

ANNOUNCEMENT

VA NURSING EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYEES PROGRAM (VANEED)

PURPOSE:

The primary intent of the VA Nursing Education for Employees Program (VANEED) is to cover the cost of tuition, books, and certain fees for employees enrolled in nursing education programs. VANEED is limited to employees enrolled full time in a Licensed Practical (or Vocational) Nurse program and employees enrolled full time in a program to achieve an initial degree (Associate or Bachelor Degree) as a Registered Nurse. As a full-time student, the employee works at the medical center during significant breaks in the academic calendar. The LPN program would be limited to completion within 12 months and the RN program within 24 months. The employee receives base salary and payment for education costs up to authorized limits of VANEED while attending school. Retention allowance for those receiving it, will be discontinued upon entry into the Program. PLEASE NOTE: Final selection for this program is made by the Nursing Education Program Manager, Health Care Staff Development & Retention Office, New Orleans, LA.

AWARD:

A scholarship covers the cost of an employee's tuition and related educational expenses such as registration, fees, books, materials, and supplies.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPLICANT:

1. Complete the VANEED application and submit to the Program Coordinator.
2. Provide a letter of recommendation from supervisor through service chief.
3. Sign a contract if awarded a scholarship.
4. Report educational progress to Program Coordinator and inform him/her of any change in educational status impacting the terms of the contract.
5. Satisfy all contract requirements.
6. After tentative acceptance into the VA Nursing Education For Employees Program, applicant must meet the physical requirements of the position. Applicant must take and successfully complete a physical examination prior to final acceptance into the program.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Must not already be a Registered Nurse (RN).
2. Must have been continuously employed with Department of Veterans Affairs for not less than 1 year.
3. Must have met the one-year requirement of employment as of the date on which the employee submits an official application for a VANEED award.
4. Must have been accepted to, or be enrolled in, an authorized education or training program which can be completed within the allocated timeframe for the degree as of the date the official application for a VANEED award is submitted by the employee.
5. Participant must be assigned a VA mentor during their educational program.
6. Submission of a plan of study and submission of grades at the end of each semester.
7. VANEED participants must remain at the facility for which their award was approved for the duration of their academic program. Transfers to another VA medical center will not be approved.
8. Must agree to incur a contractual service obligation as specified.
9. Must not be obligated under any other Federal program to perform service after completion of the course of education or training.
10. Must have a record of employment that demonstrates a high likelihood that the employee will be successful in completing the education and training, and in employment in nursing.
11. Dependability will be addressed as a critical element.

SERVICE OBLIGATION:

Service obligation for VANEED will be 3 years full-time employment in Nursing Service in the role for which the participant was educated, upon the completion of the educational program.

PARTICIPANT'S LIABILITY DURING COURSE OF EDUCATION OR TRAINING:

A participant in the VANEED is liable to the United States for the amount which has been paid to, or on behalf of the participant, under the agreement if the participant: (1) Fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing the educational institution in which the participant is enrolled. (2) Is dismissed from the educational institution for disciplinary reasons. (3) Voluntarily terminates the course of education or training in such an institution before completing the education or training. (4) Fails to meet any applicable licensure, certification and/or registration requirements for VA employment in the occupation for which the education was provided.

PARTICIPANT'S LIABILITY DURING PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE:

If a participant in the VANEED breaches the agreement by failing for any reason to complete the period of obligated service incurred under the agreement, the United States is entitled to recover an amount equal to the amounts of all award funds paid to the participant, plus interest, multiplied times three, and prorated for months of service completed under the obligation.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

All required forms (application, acceptance letter from the school, plan of study, letter of recommendation from supervisor) will be submitted to the Program Director—Clinical Education Coordinator, no later than the dates identified for each semester.

Fall: July 1

Spring: November 15

Summer: March 1

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Questions regarding VANEED may be directed to Paula Quindlen, Education Service, Ext 42913.

PLEASE NOTE: THE POSITIONS OF LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) AND REGISTERED NURSE (RN) ARE DESIGNATED RANDOM DRUG TESTED POSITIONS. SELECTEES FOR SUCH POSITIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO RANDOM DRUG TESTS.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: SELECTIONS FOR THIS PROGRAM WILL NOT BE BASED ON DISCRIMINATORY FACTORS WHICH ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW.